

CURRENT ISSUES

FOR ALBERTA HOTELS



JUNE 2021

RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY:

Alberta hotels are grateful for the recent support of the government in the following areas:

- **[Abatement of the 4% Tourism Levy](#)**, allowing hotels to retain an extra 4% of room revenue to June 30, 2021.
- **[Extension of temporary layoffs](#)** to June 30, 2021 for AHLA members, allowing hotels to maintain employment relationships with their staff and avoid potentially devastating termination costs.
- **Extension of the [Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant program](#)** to June 30, 2021. Businesses affected by the most recent public health orders may qualify for [another payment of up to \\$10,000](#).
- **Lifting of COVID restrictions affecting hotels in Stage 2 of the Government's [Open for Summer plan](#)**, including:
 - Allowing VLTs to open,
 - Allowing structured meetings in hotels based on a percentage of fire code capacity,
 - Opening and increasing capacity for indoor swimming pools and fitness centres, and
 - Allowing in-person dining for parties of more than one household.
- **Launch of the [Alberta Jobs Now Program](#)**: Provides 25% of an employee's salary for a 52-week period, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per employee.
- **Addition of housekeeping, janitorial, food service, and kitchen staff to the [Critical Worker Benefit](#)**, which provides a one-time payment of \$1,200 to workers who are providing Albertans with critical services.

CURRENT OR UPCOMING ISSUES:

- The AHLA has asked the Minister of Labour to **[extend the deadline for temporary layoffs](#)** to September 30, 2021 for AHLA members, and are awaiting a response. This would allow these properties to maintain employment relationships with their staff and avoid potentially devastating termination costs.
- The hotel industry has been one of the hardest hit industries during the pandemic, and recovery will take several years. As government business support programs begin to phase out, the hotel sector needs **additional financial support** to continue to weather the crisis.
- **Reviewing the commissions provided to VLT operators**, would provide additional financial support to hotels in this post-pandemic recovery period.
- In addition to housekeeping, janitorial, food service, and kitchen staff, hotel front desk staff are providing critical services to Albertans, and should be eligible for the **[Critical Worker Benefit](#)**.